



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES.

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With the normal Lenten demand for fresh fish increased by generally short supplies of meat throughout the country, heavy landings during the first two weeks of the spring fishing season in New England have already resulted in a catch nearly 50 per cent larger than during the same period last year, Charles E. Jackson, Acting Deputy Coordinator of Fisheries, said today.

Larger catches are expected to continue during the spring and summer months, when fishing conditions on the banks are most favorable, Mr. Jackson said.

For the period from March 1 to March 17, leading fishing ports in New England, including Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, and Portland, reported substantial gains compared with last year. New Bedford landings were up 14 per cent, Gloucester 56 per cent, and Boston 59 per cent. Portland, up 85 per cent, showed the largest percentage of gain, but the poundage represented by landings at that port is relatively small.

The total catch at the four ports for the period January 1 to March 17 is 58,555,000 pounds, compared with 49,271,000 pounds for the same period last year.

The port of Gloucester may exceed even last year's record-breaking production of fish; total landings since January 1 are already 27 per cent ahead of the 1944 figures.

New England produces more fresh fish than any other section of the country and markets its products, in the form of whole or filleted, fresh or frozen fish, widely throughout the interior of the country as well as along the Atlantic coast. Principal species caught in New England waters are haddock, rosefish, cod, mackerel, hake, and flounders.

Mr. Jackson said that because of the heavy market demand, little of the fish now entering New England ports is being frozen for storage. Holdings of frozen fish, as of March 1, were 26 per cent below stocks at the same time last year, and 8 per cent below the 5-year average.

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